

Fast Flamingo Facts!



Lesser flamingo (*Phoeniconaias minor*)

“Crimson water nymph”



The smallest flamingo species (80-90cm tall), lesser flamingos have a dark red and black bill, and bright orange eyes.

Its deep-keeled bill, packed with fine bristles (lamellae) sieves microscopic algal material from the top 4cm of the water column.

Up to 10,000 microscopic lamellae can fit into a lesser flamingo's bill.

Loves to dance! Huge flocks gather to perform a synchronised mating ritual, involving masses of birds all moving together.

Habitat: A highly specialised flamingo, both regarding habitat and diet. Found in undisturbed alkaline and saline lakes, salt pans and coastal lagoons.

Distribution: Throughout Sub-Saharan Africa and across to Madagascar, with a population in India. Can also be seen in the Middle East.

Population size: Up to 3.2 million birds.

Population trend: Decreasing.

In the zoo: Infrequently seen in zoological collections.

Watch them in action here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mk8D15msUW0>

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FLAMINGO

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